

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJ: GENERAL FIGUEIREDO AND MDB SENATE LEADER BROSSARD
EXCHANGE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE WORDS

1. SUMMARY. IN ONE OF FOUR PRESS INTERVIEWS THIS WEEK,
GENERAL GIGUEIREDO ACCUSED SENATOR BROSSARD OF TEMPORARILY

CLOSING DOWN A RADIO STATION IN 1964 WHEN HE WAS A STATE
OFFICIAL. BROSSARD ISSUED AN ACID DENIAL, LEADING ARENA SENATE
PRESIDENT REZENDE TO ACCUSE HIM OF HAVING A "HIGHLY SUBVERSIVE
PURPOSE". RESULTANT HIGH POLITICAL TEMPERATURES, RAISED EVEN
EARLIER LAST WEEK BY AN INDIRECT--AND POSSIBLY UNINTENTIONED--
BROSSARD OFFENSE AGAINST SENATE PRESIDENT PORTELLA, STIMULATED
TALK OF HARSH GOB REACTION, CAUSING REZENDE AND ARENA PRESIDENT
PEREIRA TO DENY RUMORS OF BROSSARD'S POSSIBLE CASSATION.
GIGUEIREDO MADE CONCILIATORY REMARKS, BUT BOTH PARTIES REMAIN
CONCERNED ABOUT THIS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS ON
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EVE OF APRIL 8-9 ARENA CONVENTION THAT WILL OFFICIALLY
NOMINATE FIGUEIREDO TO SUCCEED GEISEL. END SUMMARY.

2. SNI CHIEF GENERAL GIGUEIREDO, WHO RECEIVED HIS FOURTH STAR
MARCH 31 AND IS TO BE OFFICIALTY NOMINATED TO SUCCEED GEISEL
AT ARENA'S NATIONAL CONVENTION APRIL 8-9, WAS THE SUBJECT OF
FOUR PRESS INTERVIEWS IN PAST WEEK. CENTERPIECE--AND MOST

CONTROVERSIAL--HAS BEEN INTERVIEW WITH FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, PUBLISHED IN TWO TRANCHES ON APRIL 5 AND 6. CONGEN SAO PAULO IS PREPARING REPORT.

3. FOLHA INTERVIEW PURPORTS TO BE CLOSE TO VERBATIM RECONSTRUCTION BY TWO REPORTERS OF CONVERSATION IN WHICH THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE NOTES. IN DISCUSSING HIS CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY WITH REPORTERS, FIGUEIREDO AGREED WITH THEM THAT MANY NOW CALLING FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY ARE IN FACT "COSTUME (FALSE) DEMOCRATS". HE ILLUSTRATED BY CITING NEWLY ELECTED MDB SENATE LEADER PAULO BROSSARD, OF WHOM HE SAID: "LOOK, BROSSARD, WHEN HE WAS ON OUR SIDE IN 1964, AND WAS SECRETARY OF JUSTICE IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL (RGS), HE WANTED TO INVADE RADIO GUAIBA. THERE WAS A TRIAL, THE COURTS DECIDED IN FAVOR OF THE STATION, AND BROSSARD IGNORED THE DECISION AND SENT THE POLICE TO INVADE RADIO GUAIBA. TODAY, HE ASKS FOR FULL DEMOCRACY."

4. BROSSARD REACTED WITH A BITING STATEMENT PUBLISHED APRIL 6. CATEGORICALLY DENYING FIGUEIREDO'S ALLEGATIONS. HE EXPLAINED AN INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED WHILE HE WAS RGS JUSTICE SECRETARY DURING JUNE-DECEMBER 1964 INVOLVING A TELEVISION (NOT RADIO) STATION WHICH, AFTER EXHAUSTION OF LEGAL REMEDIES, WAS ORDERED OFF THE AIR FOR A DAY BECAUSE OF ITS PRESENTATION OF A FASHION SHOW IN WHICH AT LEAST ONE FEMALE MODEL WORE ONLY THE LOWER HALF OF HER BIKINI. BROSSARD SAID THAT SINCE HE COULD NOT SUPPOSE FIGUEIREDO HAD ACTED IN BAD FAITH, HE COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY "REGISTER HIS SHOCK AT FIGUEIREDO'S STATEMENTS AS COMING FROM THE HEAD OF THE SNI, BECAUSE IF ALL OF SNI'S INFORMATION IS OF SUCH QUALITY, WOE THE GOVERNMENT THAT USES IT, AND WOE THE COUNTRY THAT MAINTAINS AN INEPT SERVICE".

5. CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY APRIL 6 CENTERED AROUND PRO- AND ANTI-BROSSARD STATEMENTS BY MDB AND ARENA MEMBERS, RESPECTIVELY. ARENA SENATE LEADER EURICO REZENDE CHARGED THAT BROSSARD'S STATEMENT HAD THE "HIGHLY SUBVERSIVE PURPOSE OF DEMORALIZING PUBLIC AUTHORITY SO AS TO BRING ABOUT HARMFUL REPERCUSSIONS NOT AT ALL COMPATIBLE WITH THE HOPES OF THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE". ARENA DEPUTY BLOTA JUNIOR QUOTED FROM TWO SPEECHES MADE IN THE RIO GRANDE DO SUL STATE ASSEMBLY ON JULY 30 AND 31, 1964, WHICH SUPPORTED FIGUEIREDO'S ORIGINAL CHARGE (BUT NOT THE ALLEGATION THAT BROSSARD "INVADED" THE STATION). THE SPEECHES QUOTED WERE DELIVERED BY FORMER BRAZILIAN LABOR PARTY STATE DEPUTIES, ONE OF WHOM IS NOW PRESIDENT OF THE MDB STATE ORGANIZATION IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

6. REZENDE'S CHARGE OF "SUBVERSIVE PURPOSE" BROUGHT MATTERS TO A RELATIVE BOIL APRIL 6, AND STIMULATED TALK OF BROSSARD'S POSSIBLE CASSATION, WHICH INTENTION BOTH REZENDE AND ARENA

PRESIDENT FRANCELINO PEREIRA FOUND NECESSARY TO DENY PUBLICLY LATE PARIL 6. FIGUEIREDO HIMSELF COMMENTED FOR PUBLICATION (THROUGH VISITORS) THAT BROSSARD HAD USED HIS RIGHT OF REPLY "VERY WELL", SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BROSSARD'S REACTION AND, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT DENY HAVING MADE THEM, REGRETTEED THAT HIS REMARKS ABOUT BROSSARD HAD BEEN PUBLISHED. THE MDB NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET IN HURRIED SESSION AND EXPRESSED IT "SOLIDARITY" WITH BROSSARD, WHO CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE FIGUEIREDO, ALTHOUGH LESS ACIDLY.

7. BROSSARD HAD RUFFLED ARENA FEATHERS EARLIER THIS WEEK WHEN, IN A RELATIVELY MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY MAIDEN ADDRESS AS MEDB SENATE LEADER, HE HAD INSERTED IN THE RECORD-- BUT DID NOT READ ON THE SENATE FLOOR--A SENTENCE IN AN EDITORIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WAS DEROGATORY OF ARENA SENATE PRESIDENT PETRONIO PORTELLA. ARENA AND MDB REACTION TO THAT INCIDENT HAD RAISED CONGRESSIONAL AND POLITICAL TEMPERATURES THE DAY BEFORE PUBLICATION OF FIGUEIREDO'S INTERVIEW.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT SIDE HAS BELATEDLY SOUGHT TO CALM THE WATERS, BOTH MDB AND ARENA REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THIS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS ON THE EVE OF ARENA'S CONVENTION, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN INTENDED TO LAUNCH FIGUEIREDO'S POLITICAL "CAREER".
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